Att. Docket No. REG 720-US
Int'l File No.: PCT/US00/17173
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USSN: Not Yet Known
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Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made merely to add the priority date to the application. Applicants submit herewith as Exhibit A: Marked-Up Version of amended page 1 of the specification.

No fee is deemed necessary for filing this paper. However, if any fees are deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 18-0650.

Respectfully submitted,

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METHODS OF INHIBITING MUSCLE ATROPHY

This application claims priority of International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/17173 filed June 22, 2000, which ~~This application~~ claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/142,857, filed July 7, 1999, the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A decrease in muscle mass, or atrophy, is associated with various physiological and pathological states. For example, muscle atrophy can result from denervation due to nerve trauma; degenerative, metabolic or inflammatory neuropathy, e.g. Guillian-Barré syndrome; peripheral neuropathy; or nerve damage caused by environmental toxins or drugs. Muscle atrophy may also result from denervation due to a motor neuropathy including, for example, adult motor neuron disease, such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease); infantile and juvenile spinal muscular atrophies; and autoimmune motor neuropathy with multifocal conductor block. Muscle atrophy may also result from chronic disease resulting from, for example, paralysis due to stroke or spinal cord injury; skeletal immobilization due to trauma, such as, for example, fracture, ligament or tendon injury, sprain or dislocation; or prolonged bed rest. Metabolic stress or nutritional insufficiency, which may also result in muscle atrophy, include *inter alia* the cachexia of cancer and other chronic illnesses including AIDS, fasting or rhabdomyolysis, and endocrine disorders such as disorders of the thyroid gland and diabetes. Muscle atrophy may also be due to a muscular dystrophy syndrome such as Duchenne, Becker, myotonic, fascioscapulohumeral, Emery-Dreifuss, oculopharyngeal, scapulohumeral, limb girdle, and congenital types, as well as the